



# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Engineers

**DATE:** Dec. 21, 2011

**FROM:** *Asst. Dir.* Gus Cannon  
Outdoor Advertising Regulatory Program

**SUBJECT:** Guidance document – erection of political campaign signs relating to the change in statewide election date from March 3 to April 3, 2012

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It's quite an unusual circumstance. As the result of the challenges to the re-districting plans for Texas House, Senate and US Congress, the date of many statewide elections has been changed from March 3, 2012 to April 3, 2012.

Under state law, political campaign signs may not be erected more than 90 days before the election date. In anticipation of the original March 2012 election date, many candidates for elected office and proponents and opponents of various issues and initiatives erected political campaign signs within 90 days of the election date as allowed by state outdoor advertising rules. It is likely that many local jurisdictions will keep the original March 3, 2012 election date for local elections. Therefore, signs erected for these elections are within the 90 day period of compliance.

In compliance with state law, many exempt political campaign signs for the Texas House, Senate and US Congress races were erected within the 90 day compliance period for the original March 3, 2012 election date. Because of the change in the election date from March 3, 2012 to April 3, 2012, these signs are now technically out of the 90 day window.

The department recognizes that these signs were erected in good faith reliance on the original March 3, 2012 election date. It would be unrealistic and impractical to require all affected statewide election signs to be removed and then re-established in order to enjoy the full 90 days of public exposure before the new April 3, 2012 election date.

Given the numerous extenuating and unprecedented factors at issue, political campaign signs that are erected in anticipation of the upcoming elections may remain in place and do not need to be removed and re-established in order to be in compliance with off-premise outdoor advertising sign rules.

In accordance with state law, TxDOT will require all affected political signs to be removed within 10 days after the April 3, 2012 election date. Contact Wendy Knox at the ROW Division at 512-416-2915 or [wendy.knox@txdot.gov](mailto:wendy.knox@txdot.gov) with any questions.

Cc: John A. Barton, P.E., Scott Burford, Bob Jackson, John P. Campbell, P.E., SR/WA